

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 1-8 is noted with appreciation. However, there are ten claims, i.e., claims 1-10, currently pending in the application. Additional indication of allowable subject matter of claims 9-10, which depend from allowed claim 8, is believed appropriate and therefore courteously solicited.

Counsel also thanks Examiner Le for the courtesy of a brief telephonic interview held February 8, 2005. The foregoing amendments have been made in accordance with the outcome of the interview. In particular, claims 1-10 have been amended to remove reference numerals, improve claim language, and change "consisting of" and "means" to --comprising-- and --element-- respectively. The specification has been revised to provide appropriate headings. The Abstract has been placed in proper US format. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

All formal matters are believed successfully overcome. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP



Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

USPTO Customer No. 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/klb
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: February 9, 2005